

## MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE MILITARYART OF GENGHISKHAN

DAUREN MAIKHIYEV

Doctorant National Defense University, Kazakhstan, United States

### ABSTRACT

This article analyzes the history of war Genghis Khan. The author made an attempt to reveal the peculiarities of the military organization of the Mongolian state beginning of the XIII century. Results of the analysis of historical sources and scholarly historical literature have shown that military action should be seen as Genghis Khan - a military operation. The military organization of the Mongolian state contained elements of operational art. The presences of elements of operational art in the military organization (the armed forces) of the Mongolian state allowed independently and successfully conduct military operations in enemy territory.

**KEYWORDS:** History of Military Art of Genghis Khan, Forms of Warfare, Military Operation, Elements of Operational Art, Military Organization of the State, Control System, Military-Administrative Regional Centers, Controls, Tactical Units and Connections

### INTRODUCTION

The first half of the XIII century in world history of wars known by grand Mongol conquests of the countries and peoples of the Eurasian space.

The start of the Mongol conquest was laid by a great ruler and military leader - Genghis Khan, who created a vast empire conquering the northern part of China and Central Asia.

Currently, the life story and personality of Genghis Khan have been studied by many researchers, Orientalists all around the world. However, in the framework of the history of war there remainsunconsidered current problematic issues specific to its subject matter, for example, forms and methods of hostilities by the Mongol armies.

In this regard, in this article in accordance with the stated theme, we made an attempt to explore and identify the military art of Genghis Khan and his general's forms of warfare as - a military operation.

### THE MAIN PART

To achieve goals and solve scientific problems we have analyzed the historical sources [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6] and scientific historical literature [7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13] on the Mongol Empire and its military actions in the wars of conquest. There was revealed that the Mongolian army effectively engaged in military activities at a high level of combat readiness and combat effectiveness. Achieving a high level of combat readiness and combat capability was possible thanks to the military activities and Genghis Khan's leadership talent to apply different forms of military action.

In the course of this research we used comparative-competitive method in conjunction with the method of historical analysis. With the benefit of that choice of method of study we revealed the transformation of forms of military action emanating from the military traditions of the nomads of Central Asia and the emergence of new forms in the Mongol

period in the art of war Genghis Khan and his generals.

The results showed that the military reform of Genghis Khan in 1206 should be attributed to the early preparation of the armed forces of the Mongolian state. Advance preparation of the armed forces allowed Genghis Khan to create separate military formations of strategic and operational purposes, which led military operations in various operational areas.

For understanding the forms of military action as a "military operation" which characterized the military art of Genghis Khan in the period of the establishment of Mongolian statehood, and later on in his wars of conquest let's see about the appropriateness of the use of the term "military operation" in relation to the art of war Genghis Khan.

Modern military science considers that "military operation" is: "Operation - a set of coordinated and interconnected to the goals, objectives, location and time of simultaneous and successive battles, fights, strikes and maneuver dissimilar troops (forces), conducted on a single concept and plan for strategic operational-strategic, operational or tactical problems in the TVD... in a set period of time, the form of military action "[7].

Confirmation of Genghis Khan's military operations is that the Mongolian army of strategic and operational assignment received orders from the supreme ruler - Genghis Khan and carried out military operations on their own, differing in scope.

Here are some examples of Mongolian source "Secret Story" confirming the facts [1]:

- General Kublai Noyon received from Genghis Khan the command to go Karlucks. Karluk Arslan Khan voluntarily surrendered [1];
- In 1205, Genghis Khan sent a commander - Subedey Bahadur for persecution of fled merkits. Subedei pursuing merkits, overtook them on the Chui River and killed Merkit Hoodoos, Chilauna [1];
- In 1206, Genghis Khan sent a commander Dzebe Noyon to prosecute Kuchuluk Naiman Khan [1];
- In 1207, Genghis Khan sent his army with general Dzochi to forest peoples. By conquering forest peoples, Dzochi took in the Mongolian power over all the forest peoples [1];
- Dorbetian Dorbe-Dokshin on the mandate of Genghis Khan conquered the Hori-Tumatsk tribe [1].

Analysis of the illustrated historical facts shows that:

First - all military operations Genghis Khan held outside the territory of the Mongolian state. This fact suggests that the military operations were strategic in nature;

Second - every military operation solved strategic problems: to eliminate the military and political opponents, to subjugate another unconquered peoples and the establishment of the Mongolian power over them, to conquer enemy territory and expand its military and political influence;

Third - each of the military operations were crucial for the further course of the military history of the region.

Analysis of historical data from the "Secret History" [1], the works of Ata-Malik Juvayny [5], Rashid ad-Din [6] allows us to conclude that the ongoing military operations of Genghis Khan can be defined as: strategic, operational and

strategic, operational, operational and tactical. By the type we attribute as troops, as the army of Genghis Khan was an equestrian army. According to the type of military action is offensive.

Comparing the content of the hostilities of the Mongol army of Genghis Khan in the art of war with the above term military operation, we try to make an attempt to formulate a general definition permits us to understand the term "military operation" in relation to the military art of Genghis Khan.

"The military operation," the art of war of Genghis Khan - a set of coordinated and interconnected on the objectives, tasks, place and time, simultaneous and successive battles local strategic and operational military units carried out by a single concept and plan for strategic, locally-strategic, operational, operational-tactical problems on operational areas within the established time periods.

Our analysis of the history of the war and the history of the military art of Genghis Khan from historical sources confirm that the use of the term "military operation" in relation to the art of war Genghis Khan justified. At the same time, we note that the use of the military term "military operation" in relation to the art of war Genghis Khan assumes the presence of elements of operational art, which must be confirmed by the presence of self-contained groups of forces, which on its own plan and conduct military operations. In this regard, we consider the organizational structure of the armed forces "Eke Mongol ulus" for confirmation or refutation of the presence of operational art in the practice of the art of Genghis Khan's war.

We consider that Genghis Khan conducted military operations to destroy the fleeing enemy as measures to ensure internal stability and security, given the fact that some parts of the population of the Mongolian state were conquered and segmented tribes. To pacify segmented tribes he needed to finally resolve the question of their former leader, who fled from the battlefield. On the other hand, there was the need to bring into submission the forest peoples in the northern lands, providing external security from the north and conditionally delineating the boundaries of the state.

Simultaneously with military measures, Genghis Khan actively energetically pursued internal activities of military-administrative arrangement of the population and the creation of a system of government.

Analysis of historical events has shown that the basic principle of its military-political activity was to achieve long-term political goal of creating the Great Mongolian State. Creation of a unified Mongol state, of course, required the creation and development of the rational structure of the military organization of the state, the decisive set of interrelated tasks, namely allowing for flexibility of the organizational structure. For example, the transition of the military organization of the state with the state of peace on a war footing.

Flexible organizational structure of the state transition from peacetime to wartime supplied by ensuring the creation of a unified management system that takes into account military and political goals of the state and put their priorities above. Choosing the preferred position of the military organization of the state's economy subordinate to military purposes, which allowed for a rigorous and comprehensive account of material resources to ensure the mobilization capacity of the state?.

Important decision of Genghis Khan, fully consider all aspects of the military organization of the state, was the establishment of permanent military and administrative control of the regional centers that we have seen as a military-strategic controls. The total area of the Mongolian state in 1206 was divided into four parts, another area were

subordinate to the forest peoples in 1207 granted to the citizenship of the eldest son of Genghis Khan –Dzochi.

At that moment we do not know where were the conventional boundaries of military-administrative regional centers (wings, districts), but the appointment of commanders of Genghis Khan: Boorchu, Muhalgo-wang, Nayaa, Horchy and Dzhochi with their controlling centers, suggests the presence of these (conditional) boundaries military-administrative regional territory.

Conventional division of the territory into the military administrative regional district structurally determined the combat strength of the armed forces: the center - the main forces was ten thousand corps of keshiktens; right wing forces were commanded by Boorchu; left wing of the army was commanded by Muhalgo-wang. Each of these wings was a self-sufficient military force. This suggests that the troops representing wings had the supervisory unit that implement the commander's decisions and plans of the team to ensure a providing support and flexible response to changing military situation. Historical fact that the Mongol-Tsin War of Muhalgo-wang with his body control and military forces conducted a few years on their own all-out war on the territory of the empire of Tsin. In the same period, in 1219 - 1224 years, while Genghis Khan simultaneously led military operations in Central Asia with Khorezm. The military successes of the Mongolian armed forces conducted military campaigns show that previously adopted by Genghis Khan's decision to create a permanent military and administrative centers of the regional state administration (district), in time of war were military-strategic controls front, proved to be viable and effective, and increase the combat capabilities of the troops. Their autonomy, self-sufficiency allowed Genghis Khan at the same time to all-out war on two fronts, with questions resupply troops, the restoration of combat losses in human resources, material supply troops themselves were solved internally by the military-administrative regional centers - wings (districts, fronts).

Based on the foregoing, we consider that the presence of the operational art in the art of war Genghis Khan confirmed.

It should be noted that the creation of Genghis Khan internal mechanisms that generate additional resources for the armed forces of the Mongolian state, was provided for and implemented in the course of military reform through the introduction of the decimal system. Creation of military-administrative territorial centers of "thousands" and local governments to "hundreds" and "tens" was the best and universal system of command and control.

Genghis Khan assigned 95 noyon-thousanders, which functionally is the command staff, and in peacetime served as the administrative control of the military-administrative units. In wartime, personally led his troops formed from the population of its military-administrative units, they are also responsible for the supply of troops. Zhao Hong writes that "a written order from them (as the military part) almost absent there, everything from commander-in-chief to the thousand, the hundred and the ten, are personally commanded" [2]. We believe that noyon-thousanders represented middle management and fulfilled one of the main tasks in the overall management of the control circuit of the armed forces.

Achieving maximum overall combat capability of the armed forces depended on the state of readiness of the tactical formation. Given the importance of "thousanders" in the preliminary preparation of the armed forces as commanders of tactical management body, Genghis Khan paid special attention to the appointment of noyon-thousanders. Genghis Khan himself emphasized the importance of their appointment: "I want to express my goodwill and confer the dignity to noyon-thousanders above the thousands of people who have worked with me in the creation of the state" [1].

It is necessary in this case to draw attention to the feature of the solution of Genghis Khan in staffing issue. According to Vasilyev, LS, that Genghis Khan appointed people not on the basis of kinship or of nobility (though, both are always taken into account), and on the basis of earlier political structures inherent principle of meritocracy, i.e. choosing the most talented and best warriors [8]. It played a huge role in strengthening the efficiency of the army.

Selection of decent staff for command and control at the strategic, operational and tactical level of controls provided functionality of the decimal system. The teams of hundred thousand troops "tug" and to the commanders of "ten" was no more than nine people of direct reports, which should be given direct instructions [3].

Following organizational management level were local governments, which both in times of peace and war were presented "hundreds" and "tens". In wartime, "hundreds" and "tens" formed tactical units directly involved in combat. The success of battle depended on their determination in battle, skillful use of weapons, combat abilities. A key factor in their combat readiness and combat capability, which allowed the Mongol commanders achieve success in battle, was the presence of the whole unit, as well as their joint and collective action in combat.

To maintain a high level of combat readiness and combat capability of tactical units Genghis Khan toughened the order of interaction soldiers in tens and hundreds maximally. All of them were dependent on each other, especially strict rules acted on the tactical unit, when the troops were at war. "... If from ten people running one ... all of them are killed, and if run ten, and do not run the other of hundred, all are killed ..." [4]. Note that these rules are the same as acting in offensive warfare, and during the withdrawal. "... If one in ten are captured and other comrades did not release them, they will also put to death" [4].

Thus, the collective responsibility of "one for all" and "all for one" allowed Genghis to "solder" team tactical units in a single monolithic military body, acting as a "clock mechanism", to enhance the role of commanders of tactical units, which has been particularly important as a tactical governing body. Practically the outcome of tactical combat depended on their ability to manage a division in combat.

Historical processes that began in the course of the military reform of the Mongolian state, created the conditions for the adoption of the highest state of the law "Great Yasa." The legal basis for the Genghis Khan's art of war was a major factor that foredoomed its development. "Great Yasa" of Genghis Khan legislatively established internal rules and regulations of the troops and the public. Ata-Malik Juvayny said that Genghis Khan "... has introduced a rule for each case and the law for every circumstance and for each fault set punishment" [5].

Genghis Khan prescribed an important requirement in the "Great Yasa" rule, strengthening the position of governments and organizations in the preparation of the armed forces. Combat readiness formations and units established by the fact that no one could move to another unit of thousands, hundreds, or tens, from which he was assigned, or to seek refuge elsewhere. In case of violation of this order both sides were penalized: the one who ran, and the one who hid. "So - Ata-Malik Juvayny wrote - no one can give shelter to another ... no one can make in their own way with your boss or leader, and other chiefs cannot entice anyone" [5].

Noyons-thousanders, hundreds and tens at the beginning and end of the year were required to come and listen to 'bilik' of Genghis Khan and then be in positions of noyons those who ignored the requirements of 'bilik', lost their positions as worthless as the commanders [6].

Genghis Khan recommended descendants obey the law "Great Yasa": "If the great men of the [State], Bahadur and emirs, who will in many children sovereigns that will be born after this will not be hard to keep the law, then it is moved, and the state will fail to be passionate search for Genghis Khan, but will not find [him]" [6].

Given evidence we suggest that the basis of combat readiness and combat capability of the armed forces of Genghis Khan considered maintaining internal order and discipline within the prescribed regulations. Moreover, the content of the "Great Yasa" Genghis Khan, we see that he paid attention to the education of soldiers on the hunt "... [so they know] as hunters chase the beast as hunt, how to build and how to surround the prey, depending on the number of people.

Note that the value of the Institute of roundup hunting in military training Mongols investigated by historian AK Kushkumbayev. The author, based on the extensive range of historical literature on roundup hunting. Mongols came to the conclusion that the military actions of Genghis Khan performed as big roundup hunting since roundup hunting gave a lot for military tactical training of the troops and commanders. During the roundup hunting Mongolian troops are trained in martial construction and environment of the enemy. "... Mongolian troops in an encounter with the enemy located in a semicircle, forming a bow shape, and then surround it. If they found themselves surrounded, in the ring, then scatter the enemy, like a furious bull. The Mongols There were more than 60 ways to break environments at the Mongols. These methods emerged from them on the basis of observing the behavior of animals in a circle round up when he felt a mortal danger, and in spite of everything, rushes to break meshed ring hunters" [9].

In studying the history of the preparation of the armed forces of Genghis Khan the roundup hunting are seen as a form of combat training. From hunting methods Mongols to a certain extent are detected and traditional tactical and strategic ways of conducting military operations. Military operations (small and large) differed only in the scale of theatre of operations.

Analysis of works of Ata-Malik Juvayny [5], we allowed to identify the characteristics of the combat training of the Mongols, who worked out in preparation for the roundup hunt and directly at their event:

- Mongols in everyday life are systematically engaged in combat training, troops accustomed to the fact that the soldiers were accustomed to endure hardships. Soldiers were trained in military skills and weapons possession individual archery. "... They always hunt ... and the army ... to ... to teach the soldiers were accustomed to hunting and archery taught and carried burdens" [5];
- Preparation of the Mongols to the big hunt took place under the decree of the khan. The troops that are at the heart rate and in the neighborhood with the hordes, ready, equipping several tens people each, and collected weapons and other gear according to the place where they will conduct military exercises (large hunting). Take into account the terrain and the nature of the actions of troops. "... ... Khan issued a decree ... troops ... Done ... in accordance with the order and collected weapons ... right and left wing and middle distributed among the great Emir ..." [5];
- At the beginning of a large hunting military field laws require strict observance of discipline system in order of battle, the offender no quarter given. In respect of the perpetrators were applied severe penalties previously conducted a thorough investigation and to establish the degree of guilt of the accused in violation. "... Suddenly

jump out of the circle of the beast, then immediately conduct a thorough investigation and finding the cause and blame, beaten with sticks for ... often killed to death. ... And if someone does not comply with order (... nerje) and made of it a step or retreat, that severely punished and no quarter given "[5];

- Mongolia accustomed tactical methods, particularly to pursue his opponent, no matter the time of year, time of day, and terrain features, climatic conditions. Constantly directed to Khan reports and report to it on the pursuit of the enemy, or fight occurred (battle), the results on the number of the enemy, the enemy has reached a place and the measures taken at the same time solve the problem of interaction with the forces of Khan as a senior commander. "... Send khan news to report to it on the persecution, the number of the beast, which place he reached and where to startle ... finally, the ring shrinks ... warriors stand dense ring, shoulder to shoulder" [5];
- When, finally, the ring will be compressed (encircle the enemy - DM), soldiers take up their positions for the attack. Khan and his staff is at a high conspicuous place for his troops (define the place of the command post - DM) to see (to manage the battle), how are fighting troops under the command of princes, noyans commanders and ordinary soldiers. "... The ring is compressed so that wild animals cannot move, khan ... hurry on high ground amidst nerje to see ..." [5];
- After the battle (battle) of Mongolia received the prisoners and wounded so as to deem themselves fit.
- This analytical review of the historical evidence reveals an exemplary action Mongolian soldiers and commanders in the organization of training. Large hunting lasted continuously for two or three months, day and night. It was great hunting allowed the Mongols to fulfill all elements of martial arts, both tactical strategic scales.
- High mobility and excellent knowledge workaround enemy forced them to believe that they are surrounded by numerous armies of the Mongols. Number Mongol armies were usually considerably less than at their opponent. For example, in 1211 the army of Genghis Khan was barely a quarter of the army of his opponent - Tsin Empire [10].
- In the study of issues of combat capability of the armed forces is of great importance manning operational units. Feature tactical formation "thousands" was that thousands could be reduced in the larger connections and associations "ten thousand" and "one hundred thousand." We believe that such compounds and associations could be administered at a separate campaign. According to historians, the Mongol army in the military campaign in Central Asia did not exceed 120-150 thousand warriors [11]. In the military campaign in Eastern Europe under the command of Batu participated 250-300 thousand troops [12].
- Have a method of acquisition of large joints and unions allowed to create high command Mongols strategic, operational-strategic formation (grouping) troops who were on their own military operations on operational areas, with specific objectives and tasks together a general plan of campaign. For example, Genghis Khan for strategic coverage of the Khorezm state military forces divided and created four strategic grouping of troops who independently conducted military operations to achieve the overall objectives of the war [13].

It should be noted that for the military art of Genghis Khan is a characteristic way of creating the next major military formations during the war, it is virtually opened a new front war, expanding and deepening penetration of the enemy defense. For example, for the conquest of Khorasan, Genghis Khan, under the command of the youngest son

Tuluya, quickly gathered from across the Mongolian army involved in the military campaign in Central Asia, the operational-strategic military formations. "... Of all the armies that were with him, and all his sons, Genghis Khan wins the people in proportion to their number, and each ten he appointed one to accompany Toluya" [5].

In 1221, Genghis Khan created several special operational-strategic formations under the command:

- Commander Chormaqan, whose "... to go camping at the Baghdad people on Ghalib-Soltan" [1];
- "... Send to go camping Dorbettsa Dorbe-Dokshinaat the Abt city, belonging to the people of Aru-Maru-Madasari in the land lying between the two nations, Hindus and Baghdad" [1];
- Subedei Bahadur, "... he went on to the north, commanded reach eleven countries and peoples, such as: ... go through the great rivers of Idyll and Ayah, and walk up to the town itself Kivamen-Kerman. With this commandment he went camping ..." [1].

As seen from the source, each warlord Genghis Khan pointed and articulate specific combat missions. Importantly, created by Genghis Khan's strategic and operational-strategic grouping of troops were on the quantitative composition different. For example, the formation Subedei-Bahadur and DzhebeNoyon, according to Ata-Malik Juvayn, was 30-thousand army [5]. However, the Mongol army in battle on the river. Kalka represented 25,000th corps [12].

## CONCLUSIONS

Considering the martial art of Genghis Khan in our opinion it should be noted that feature of Mongolian soldiers: military training, cohesion, morale, organization and discipline both in civilian life and in combat.

We believe that the conditions for the education of martial abilities Mongolian soldiers were: the geographical conditions of the Mongolian steppes; nomadic way of life of the Mongolian people and their culture; military traditions of the Mongols.

The study of the impact of these conditions and factors allow us to understand that the art of war Genghis Khan formed under the influence of life circumstances, traditions and norms of life of the Mongols in a specific historical period.

## OUTPUT

Results of the analysis of historical sources and scholarly historical literature showed that:

Firstly, the martial art of Genghis Khan was progressive for its time in many ways, including Genghis Khan's implication of the forms of warfare as - a military operation. His generals independently performed combat missions in the general interest of the war, in accordance with the plan of wars of conquest;

Secondly, in the military art of Genghis Khan, we see elements of operational art, achieving a high level of combat readiness and combat effectiveness was the result of the creation of independent and self-sufficient group of combat forces, with their governing bodies and planning future operations.

## REFERENCES

1. "Secret Story." Mongolian Chronicle in 1240 under the name Mongrol-un Niruca Tobciyan. Yuan Chao Bi Shi. Mongol common selected stories. Translation by S. A. Kozina, M. - L., 1941 - 199 p.

2. Zhao Hong. *Note on the Mongol-Tatars* (Meng Da Bei Lu) (fragments translation by V. Vasilyev) / Chingisiana: body of evidence contemporaries / Trans., comp. and comments by A. Melekhina. - M.: Eksmo, 2009. - S. 618-626.
3. Polo Marco. *The Book of Wonders of the world* / Marco Polo; [trans. I. P. Minayeva; foreword. I. P. Magidovicha; Notes by Leo Yakovlev]. - M.: Eksmo, 2009. - 512 p.: ill. - (Great journeys).
4. Giovanni del Plano Carpini. *History of mongolov* / Travel to the East by Plano Carpini and Gilliom de Rubruck. Series: Traveling. Discoveries. Adventure. - Almaty: Gylym, 1993. - P. 19-74.
5. Ala-ud-Din Ata-Malik Juvayny. *Genghis Khan. The history of the conqueror of the world*. Translation into English of the text of Mirza Mukhammed Kazvini by J. E. Boil, preface and bibliography by David O. Morgan. Translation from English into Russian by E. E. Kharitonov. Publishing House MASTER PRESS. Moscow, 2004. - 689 p.
6. Rashid al-Din, "Collection of Histories". Volume I. The second book. Translation from Persian O. I. Smirnova. B. I. Notes by B. I. Pankratov and O. I. Smirnova. Edited by prof. AA Semenov. Moscow - Leningrad USSR Academy of Sciences Publishing House, 1952. - 281 p.
7. *Military Encyclopedic Dictionary* / in 2 volumes. Volume 2 - The Editorial Board: A. P. Gorkin, V. A. Zolotarev, V. M. Karev and others. - M: Great Russian Encyclopedia "RIPOL Classic", 2001. - 816 p.
8. Vasilev L. S. *History of the East in 2 volumes*. Vol.1: Textbook / L. S. Vasiliev. - 4th ed., Rev. and ext. - M.: Higher. wk., 2005. - 512 p.
9. Kushkumbayev A. K. Institute of round up hunting and military affairs of the nomads of Central Asia. *Comparative-historical research*. - Kokshetau: Keleshek - 2030, 2009. - 170 p.
10. Tarnbul S. *The Army of Mongol Empire* / S. Tarnbul; Translated from English by G. G. Vershubskii; Artist. A. McBride. - M.: LLC "Publisher AST" LLC "Astrel Publishing", 2003. - 47, [1] p.: col. yl. - (Military historical series "SOLDAT").
11. Petrushevsky I. P. Hike Mongolian troops to Central Asia in 1219-1224 and its implications / "Tatar-Mongols in Asia and Europe." Collection of articles (2nd edition, revised and enlarged) - Moscow, "Nauka", 1977. - 502 p.
12. Kinayatuly Shyngys Z. *Khan* // Birinshi kitap. - Almaty: "Arda", 2008. - 432 bet Zhapsyrmaly.
13. Razin E. A. *The history of the military art VI - XVI centuries*. S-Pb.: LLC "Publisher Polygon"; 1999. - 656 p.

